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Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 5:54 PM CDT
To: Risco, Carlos A <carlos.risco@okstate.edu>
Subject: Letter of Appeal regarding decision
Attachment(s): "Rivera-Pierola, Jonathan 3-29-20.pdf"

Dean Risco,

Attached to this email is my letter of appeal regarding the decision made by the PSC. I hope this letter gives you a better understanding of my goals and willingness to change to become a better clinician. Please allow me the ability to complete my remaining 14 weeks of rotations so I can achieve my long term goal of becoming a veterinarian. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rivera-Pierola, MPH

To: Dr. Carlos Risco, DVM, DACT
Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine of Oklahoma State University

To: The Members of the Professions Standard Committee

Re: Dismissal from the College of Veterinary Medicine Program at Oklahoma State University

I am writing to appeal my academic dismissal from the CVM Program at OSU. Thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to explain the circumstances that led to this point, as well as my action plan to improve on my performance in the program.

I met with the Professions Standard Committee on March 18, 2020 and I was unable to fully express the circumstances that led to my failed rotations. I got caught up in answering questions and found myself out of time to disclose the background situations that may have affected my performance and which situations I believe are relevant to the decision now being appealed. Also, as we are currently living through the COVID 19 pandemic, the anxiety of the meeting was increased and the distraction of current events did not permit a full discussion of my continued participation in the CVM Program.

I did not ignore the suggestions given to me on the evaluations. I took them seriously and attempted to implement them as best as I could. In retrospect, I failed to portray this clearly so that my professors could see the work I put into the recommended changes. I was perhaps too quiet, giving a misconception of who I am and what I stand for and the seriousness with which I took the suggestions and my continued and strong desire to continue at OSU.

During my Internal Medicine rotation, my father had a syncopal episode leading to a motor vehicle accident. He was rushed to the hospital and found to have a chest contusion, rib and sternal fractures and was admitted to the cardiac critical care unit. He was being evaluated for possible emergent cardiac surgery and stayed in the CCU for several days. This kept me anxious and distracted during my rotation. In retrospect, I now see that I should have communicated this to my professors or even taken a leave of absence rather than continue in the rotation.

On my Community Practice rotation, I got caught up in miscommunications leading to ambiguities and misunderstandings. This caused me to become stressed with fear of getting involved in another misunderstanding that may lead to my failure of the rotation. I truly internalized the constructive criticism and attempted to correct various issues on my own. In retrospect, I should have increased my communication with my professors and asked for assistance when needed.

I am receiving counseling with an OSU psychologist, Mr. Jeremiah Grissett, as recommended by the Dean of CVM. He is helping me see my role in these situations and providing me with good advice.

I truly have learned and appreciate all the clinicians' feedback through my rotations. I plan to utilize every piece of constructive criticism that I have received in the following manner:

1. Communication: I will make sure to communicate with the clinicians/residents/technicians involved in each case to ensure proper feedback on my performance and direction on results and areas of improvement. Specifically, I will ask for feedback from my clinicians at the beginning and end of each week so I could be in constant communication and agreement with them. And, I will ask for clarification if I am unclear on any instructions or assignments.
2. Case Preparation: I will improve on the preparation of cases. I will be more thorough in taking and documenting the history and physical exam. I will bring the documentation to my feedback sessions to go over with the clinicians in detail.
3. Patient care- I will arrive earlier than requested in the syllabus to ensure my review of patient's vital signs, medication sheets and to be sure that overnight notes have been double checked prior to rounds.
4. Demonstrate proper professional ethical behavior by working with my professors more frequently in a verbal and transparent way to avoid miscommunications.

Although I have not passed the Internal Medicine and Community Practice rotations, evaluations in both of these courses stated I have the potential to become a good veterinarian.

For example, from Internal Medicine:

"We are confident that you will achieve these goals. Jonathan, you have the knowledge and skills to pass small animal internal medicine and be a good veterinarian. We are hopeful that you will take these constructive comments and areas of improvement as ways to continue to develop as a future veterinarian. being capable of becoming a good clinician."

After evaluation of above mentioned and taking into consideration the changes I am willing to make now and in the next rotations, I am asking for reconsideration of the decision made on March 18, 2020. Becoming a veterinarian is of paramount importance to me. I am asking for the opportunity to be reinstated to the CVM Program at OSU and to demonstrate my willingness to do all that is necessary to become a competent veterinarian of whom this Program can be proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rivera-Pierola', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Rivera-Pierola, MPH